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From: DOD, ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS, AHRC, HRC AG(UC), HRC MILITARY AWARDS BR(UC)

Subject: Eligibility Criteria for Award of the Aviation Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System Warrant Officers and Operators

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A. AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, dated 11 Dec 06

1. The purpose of this message is to announce that on 13 March 2007, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve Affairs), approved the below changes to the Aviation Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), and Air Medal (AM).

2. Paragraph 8-28 of reference A, Aviation Badge-Basic:

a. The eligibility criteria for the Aviation Badge are as follows:

(1) For award of this badge, an individual must be on flying status in accordance with AR 600-106 or be granted waiver by HQ, USA HRC (AHRC-PLP-I); be on flying status (physically qualified-class III); have performed crewmember or noncrewmember flying duties for not less than 12 months (not necessarily consecutive) and by logging not less than 48 flight hours, or be school trained.

(2) An officer on flying status as an aerial observer may be awarded the Basic Aviation Badge. U.S. Army personnel assigned to a Joint Service Airborne Command Post and serving as members of an operational team on flying status manning the Airborne Command Post are eligible for the award of the Basic Aviation Badge. Concurrent with such assignment, these personnel are authorized temporary wear of the Basic Aviation Badge until relieved from such duty or until such time as he or she fulfills the mandatory requirements for permanent award.

(3) An individual on flying status in accordance with AR 600-106, paragraph 2-1, 2-3, or 2-4, and serving in a valid non-rated aviation flight position as coded in The Army Authorization Documents (TAADS) who has been incapacitated for further flight duty by reason of being wounded as a result of enemy action, or injured as the result of an aircraft accident for which he or she was not personally responsible, or has participated in at least 15 combat missions under probable exposure to enemy fire while performing crewmember or noncrewmember flying duties is permanently authorized to wear the Basic Aviation Badge.

b. The Basic Aviation Badge may be awarded to Soldiers upon successful completion of formal advanced individual training (AIT) in one of the following Career Management Fields or Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) listed below:

- (1) CMF 15 graduates.
- (2) CMF 67 graduates from 7 April 1983 through 30 September 2003.
- (3) MOS 68 graduates **from 31 December 1985 through 30 September 2003.**
- (4) MOS 93; 93C and 93P graduates who graduated from a CMF 67 AIT after 31 December 1985 (with a documented AIT Diploma); 93B graduates from 7 April 1983 through 1 January 1998; 93D graduates from 7 April 1983 through 30 September 1996.
- (5) MOS 71P graduates prior to 30 June 1984.
- (6) **MOS 96U graduates from 1 August 1993 through 30 September 2007.**
- (7) **MOS 35K graduates from 1 October 2007 through 30 September 2008.**
- (8) MOS' 35L, 35Q, and 35W who graduated from a 67 CMF prior to 30 September 1996.
- (9) **Soldiers who previously completed AIT in CMF 28 prior to 30 September 1973.**

c. Individuals who meet the criteria for award of the Army Astronaut Device and are not authorized an Aviator, Flight Surgeon or Aviation Badge will be awarded the Aviation Badge in addition to the Army Astronaut Device.

d. The Basic Aviation Badge will be awarded to Soldiers upon successful completion of formal AIT in CMF 93 MOS'. Soldiers previously holding MOS 93B who graduated from a CMF 93 AIT prior to 1 January 1998 and Soldiers previously holding MOS 93D who graduated from a CMF 93 AIT prior to 30 September 1996, to include MOS 71P who graduated from AIT prior to 30 June 1984, are authorized the badge based on documented AIT after 7 April 1983.

e. Aviation Warrant Officers in MOS 150U, without prior aviation experience, will be awarded the Basic Aviation Badge upon successful completion of their MOS qualification course. Individuals possessing the MOS 350U or 350K will be awarded the Basic Aviation Badge retroactively to their date of graduation from the qualification course.

3. Paragraph 8-29 of reference A, Aviation Badge-Senior:

a. For award of this badge, an individual must successfully perform on flight or non-flight status as defined in paragraphs b and c below and the additional requirements defined in paragraph d below.

b. Flight experience requires successful performance of 7 years on flying status in accordance with, paragraph 8-28. Only time involving frequent and regular flights will be counted toward fulfillment of this requirement. That time involved in transit between PCS assignments to include TDY will also be credited.

c. For non-flight experience, Soldiers may be awarded the Senior Aviation Badge after 10 years of experience in a principal duty assignment of the following CMF/MOS:

- (1) CMF 15 graduates.
- (2) CMF 67 graduates from 7 April 1983 through 30 September 2003.
- (3) MOS 68 graduates **from 31 December 1985 through 30 September 2003.**
- (4) MOS 93: 93C and 93P graduates after 31 December 1985 (with a documented AIT Diploma); 93B graduates from 7 April 1983 through 1 January 1998; 93D graduates from 7 April 1983 through 30 September 1996.
- (5) MOS 71P graduates prior to 30 June 1984.
- (6) MOS 00Z from CMF 67 and 93 from 7 April 1983 through 30 September 1996, and CMF 15 after 30 September 2003.
- (7) **MOS 96U graduates after 1 August 1993 through 30 September 2007.**
- (8) **MOS 35K graduates after 1 October 2007 through 30 September 2008.**
- (9) Warrant Officers MOS 150A, **150U**, and 151A. Warrant Officer MOS 150A, **150U**, and 151A may qualify for this badge after 10 years of experience in **MOS 350U and 350K**, CMF 67 or 93, or MOS 71P.

d. In addition to the above criteria, all individuals must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Displayed complete competence in the principal duty or duties performed leading to this award.
- (2) Attained the grade of E-4 or higher.
- (3) Be recommended by the unit commander of the unit to which presently assigned.
- (4) Soldiers who retain qualifying CMF 15 or prior to 30 September 2003 CMF 67, 93, MOS 71P, while performing career progressive assignments such as Drill Instructor, Recruiter, Career Management NCO, Career Advisor, Instructor or Equal Opportunity Advisor will be counted towards this requirement not to exceed 36 months.

e. For retroactive award of the badge, see subparagraph c(1) through (9), above for CMF/MOS specific retroactive eligibility dates.

4. Paragraph 8-30 of reference A, Aviation Badge-Master:

a. For award of this badge, an individual must successfully perform on flight status or non-flight status as defined in paragraphs b or c below and the additional requirements defined in paragraph d below.

b. Flight experience requires successful performance of 15 years on flying status in accordance with, paragraph 8-25 of reference A. Only time involving frequent and regular flights will be counted toward fulfillment of this requirement. That time involved in transit between PCS assignments to include TDY will also be credited.

c. For non-flight experience, Soldiers may be awarded the Master Aviation Badge after 17 years of experience in a principal duty assignment of the following CMF/MOS:

- (1) CMF 15 graduates.
- (2) CMF 67 graduates after 7 April 1983 and prior to 30 September 2003.
- (3) MOS 93C, 93P, and all 68 series MOS from 31 December 1985 to 30 September 2003.
- (4) MOS 71P graduates prior to 30 June 1984.
- (5) Warrant officers MOS 150A, 151A and MOS 00Z from CMF 15 or CMF 67 and 93 prior to 30 September 2003, MOS 71P and meet the additional requirements below.
- (6) **MOS 96U graduates after 1 August 1993 through 30 September 2007.**
- (7) **MOS 35K graduates after 1 October 2007 through 30 September 2008.**
- (8) **Warrant Officers MOS 150A, 151U, and 151A. Warrant Officer MOS 150A, 151U, and 151A may qualify for this badge after 17 years of experience in MOS 350U and 150K, CMF 67 or 93, or MOS 71P, 96U, or 35K.**

d. In addition to the above criteria, all individuals must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Displayed complete competence in the principal duty or duties performed leading to this award.
- (2) Attained the grade of E-6 or higher.
- (3) Be recommended by the unit commander and endorsed by the next higher commander of the unit to which presently assigned.
- (4) Soldiers who retain CMF 15 prior to 30 September 2003 CMF 67, 93, MOS 71P while performing career progressive assignments such as a Drill Instructor, Recruiter, Career Management NCO, Career Advisor, Instructor, or Equal Opportunity Advisor will be counted towards this requirement, not to exceed 36 months.

e. For retroactive award, see subparagraph c(1) through (8), above for CMF/MOS specific retroactive eligibility dates.

5. Distinguished Flying Cross or Air Medal: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System Warrant Officers and Operators may only be awarded the DFC or AM **if** physically located **on** the aircraft during the cited period, and all criteria for the decorations have been met.

6. Requests for award of the Senior and Master Aviation Badges that cannot be resolved at the local military personnel center will be forwarded to the Commander, U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center (USAAWC), ATTN: ATZQ-AP, Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5000. The USAAWC point of contact is SFC Justin D. Miculinich at Comm: (334) 255-1421, DSN: 558-1421, or email: mitch.miculinich@conus.army.mil.

7. This change will be incorporated into the next revision of reference A.